



Posted on 02/16/2012

## **BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELOR**

The **Grant County Health Department** is recruiting for a WIC (Women Infant Children) Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. This contracted position gives basic breastfeeding information and encouragement to WIC pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High school diploma or equivalent (GED); successfully breastfed at least one infant for at least 12 months (does not have to be currently breastfeeding); is enthusiastic about breastfeeding and wants to help other mothers enjoy a positive experience; member of the population that will be served; bilingual (English/Spanish) is a plus; ability to work about 8 or more hours a week; have reliable transportation.

Please contact the WIC Director at (608)723-6416, ext. 1607, with any questions. Applicants must submit letter of interest and resume no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2012** to:

**WIC Director**  
**Grant County Health Department**  
111 S Jefferson St.  
Lancaster WI 53813

**(AA/EEO)**



## **Grant County WIC Program Job Description**

### **Title: Breastfeeding Peer Counselor**

#### **General Description:**

A WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor is a contracted paraprofessional with breastfeeding experience who is selected from the group to be served and is trained and given ongoing supervision who gives basic breastfeeding information and encouragement to WIC pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

#### **Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Has successfully breastfed at least one infant for at least 12 months (does not have to be currently breastfeeding).
- Is enthusiastic about breastfeeding, and wants to help other mothers enjoy a positive experience.
- Be a member of the population that will be served.
- Complete required training.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) individuals encouraged to apply.

#### **Training:**

- Completes the training sessions required to become and continue as a WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor.
- Observes other peer counselors or lactation consultants helping mothers breastfeed.
- Reads assigned books or materials about breastfeeding.

#### **Additional Work Requirements:**

- Can work about 8 or more hours a week.
- Is available to work during the following hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Is available outside usual 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. working hours to new mothers who are having breastfeeding problems as needed.
- Has reliable transportation.
- Sign a confidentiality statement.

#### **Supervision:**

The peer counselor is supervised by Grant County's WIC Director.

**Specific Duties:**

The WIC Peer Counselor:

1. Attends training sessions to become a WIC breastfeeding peer counselor.
2. Counsels WIC pregnant and breastfeeding mothers by telephone, WIC clinic visits, home visits, and/or hospital visits at scheduled intervals determined by the local WIC program.
3. Receives a caseload of WIC clients and makes required routine periodic contacts with all clients assigned.
4. Gives basic breastfeeding information and support to new mothers, including telling them about the benefits of breastfeeding, overcoming common barriers, and getting a good start with breastfeeding. She also helps mothers prevent and handle common breastfeeding concerns.
  - Provide emotional support to mother and her significant other through personal interaction.
  - Provide the mother with advice on aspects of normal breastfeeding.
  - Provide anticipatory guidance to reduce the occurrence of problems.
  - Provide information on the effect of foods, medications, and home remedies on lactation within guidelines addressed in training.
5. Respects each client by keeping her information strictly confidential.
6. Keeps accurate records of all contacts made with WIC clients.
7. Refers mothers, according to clinic-established protocols, to the:
  - WIC breastfeeding coordinator or nutritionist
  - The mother's physician or nurse
  - Lactation consultant
  - Public health programs in the community
8. Attends and assists with prenatal classes and breastfeeding support groups.
9. Attends monthly staff meetings and breastfeeding conferences/workshops as appropriate.
10. Reads assigned books and materials on breastfeeding that are provided by the supervisor.
11. May assist WIC staff in promoting breastfeeding peer counseling through special projects and duties as assigned.